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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6306443 B1

TITLE: Method of increasing concentrations of caffeic acid derivatives and alkylamides and compositions containing the same

Brief Summary Text (4):

In recent years, Echinacea has become one of the most popular commercial medicinal herbs in the world (Wills and Stuart, Alkylamide and Cichoric Acid Levels in Echinacea purpurea Grown in Australia, Food Chemistry, 67, 385-388 (1999)). Echinacea has received international attention because of its immunostimulatory and other beneficial effects. Although several phytochemicals in Echinacea work together in providing these beneficial effects, caffeic acid derivatives, most notably cichoric acid, and lipophilic alkylamides are indicated as making considerable contributions to Echinacea's immunostimulatory activity (Bauer, R. and Wagner, H., Echinacea Species as Potential Immunostimulatory Drugs, Econ. Medic. Plant Res., 5, 253-321, Wagner, H. and Farnsworth, N. R. (Editors), Academic Press Ltd., New York, N.Y. (1991)).

Brief Summary Text (5):

Echinacea is the genus name for nine herbaceous perennial species native to North America. Echinacea, however, usually refers to Echinacea angustifolia, Echinacea purpurea, or Echinacea pallida. Echinacea was first widely used by several North American Indian tribes against various conditions such as wounds, burns, insect bites, headaches, stomach cramps, coughs, and the measles. The primary use of Echinacea is for increasing resistance to infections in the upper respiratory tract and colds in the upper respiratory tract (Bauer, R. and Wagner, H., Echinacea Species as Potential Immunostimulatory Drugs, Econ. Medic. Plant Res., 5, 253-321, Wagner, H. and Farnsworth, N. R. (Editors), Academic Press Ltd., New York, N.Y. (1991)). Echinacea has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activities useful in treating conditions such as skin inflammations and urinary tract infections. It has been indicated that Echinacea also fights cancer by stimulation of key lymphocyte production, which triggers natural killer cells to destroy tumor cells (see Lersch, C. et al., Nonspecific Immunostimulation with Low Doses of Cyclophosphamide, Thymostimulin, and Echinacea purpurea extracts (Echinacin) in Patients with Far Advanced Colorectal Cancer, Cancer Invest. 10(5): 343-348 (1992)).

Other Reference Publication (1):

Wills et al. Alkylamide and Cichoric Acid Levels in Echinacea purpurea Grown in Australia; Food Chemistry 67 , 385-388, Apr. 1999.*

Other Reference Publication (2):

Wills et al. Effect of Handling and Food Storage on Alkylamides and Cichoric Acid in Echinacea purpurea; Sci. Food Agric. 80: 1402-1406, Jul. 2000.*

Other Reference Publication (3):

R.B.H. Wills, D.L. Stuart, Alkylamide and Cichoric Acid Levels in Echinacea Purpurea Grown in Australia, Food Chemistry 67, 385-388 (1999).

CLAIMS:

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of Echinacea purpurea, Echinacea angustifolia, Echinacea pallida, and mixtures thereof.